

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

March 20, 2015  
Fort Wayne Museum of Art  
311 E. Main Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Trevor Yager, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Kathy Z. Anderson, Gilberto Cárdenas, Karen Ellerbrook, Susan Hardwick, Pam Hicks, Linda S. Levell, Allen C. Platt, Micah L. Smith, Sherry Stark, Nancy Stewart, Trevor Yager

Members absent: Jeffrey J. Kirk, J. Allan Rent, Suzie Rentschler

Arts Commission staff present: Michelle Anderson, Ann Fields, Sarah Fronczek, Dennis Hardin, Becca Hopson, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Adrian Starnes, Rex Van Zant

Guests: Susan Mendenhall, president of the Regional Arts Partner consortium.

Prior to the meeting, Commission Chair Yager introduced Charles Shepard, president of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Mr. Shepard welcomed everyone to the city of Fort Wayne and to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Commission Chair Yager convened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Commissioner Nancy Stewart moved to adopt the consent agenda, consisting of the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the December 12, 2014 meeting of the full Commission. Commissioner Micah Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Chair and Executive Committee Report.**

A. First Lady and Bicentennial Progress. Arts Commission Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported that Indiana's First Lady, Karen Pence, has been supportive of the Commission's participation in programs connected to the Indiana Bicentennial celebration for 2016 – 2017. These programs include the Arts in the Parks grant program, the Indiana Masterpieces grant program, and the Bicentennial Governor's Arts Awards. Mr. Ricci presented the guidelines for the Arts in the Parks program and the Indiana Masterpieces program (attached). Arts Commission Community Development Manager Becca Hopson remarked that it has been "wonderful" working with staff of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Commissioner Sherry Stark moved to approve the guidelines for the Arts in the Parks grant program and the Indiana

Masterpieces grant program. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Ricci noted that the state legislature has yet to approve funding for these programs in the state budget for FY 2016 – 2017, but that the outlook is favorable for funding. Mr. Ricci reported that several specific dates are being presented to the office of the Governor for the Governor's Arts Awards in the spring of 2016, and that he has met with the First Lady about the event and her possible involvement. The event will be held on the campus of Butler University in conjunction with the Butler Arts Festival.

B. Financials. Arts Commission Deputy Director Michelle Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the FY 2015 budget, current through February 28. Mr. Ricci added that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will provide an additional \$10,000 in funding, to cover the cost involved with new reporting requirements. The NEA has also approached the Arts Commission to provide input for a proposed nation-wide arts accessibility website.

C. Advocacy Report. Mr. Ricci reported that the Ad-Hoc Advocacy Advisory Committee, comprised of former Commissioners and Commission chairs, has continued its work on behalf of the Commission. The Indiana Coalition for the Arts (INCA) presented its annual Arts Day at the Statehouse on January 27. INCA also was allowed recently to make a case statement before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

#### D. Nominations.

Commissioner Yager reported on one current vacancy on the Commission, that of Jon Ford, who resigned subsequent to his election to the Indiana Senate. Three upcoming vacancies include the concluding terms of Karen Ellerbrook, Pam Hicks, and Suzie Rentschler. Commissioner Smith will conclude her first term in June 2015 and is eligible for re-appointment. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing nominations for the office of Commissioner, made by various interested parties. Commissioner Yager asked everyone to submit any further nominations by Friday March 27, so that a finalized list can be submitted to the office of the Governor.

Commissioner Yager presented a handout (attached) to be used as a nomination form for Arts Commission officers for FY 2016. Officers will be elected during the June 19 meeting of the full Commission.

E. Arts Operating Support Grant Prescreening, Letter of Intent Report. Mr. Ricci reported that all organizations wishing to apply for Arts Operating Support (AOS) grants were required to submit an intent-to-apply form for FY 2016 grants. All of the applicants were pre-screened for eligibility according to Arts Commission guidelines. Four organizations were deemed ineligible to apply for operating support, but can apply for project grants. One organization failed to meet the deadline for submitting its intent-to-apply form.

#### **4. Executive Director Report.**

A. Staff Update. Mr. Ricci introduced the two newest members of the Arts Commission staff: Ann Fields is the new Communications and Community Engagement Manager, and Adrian Starnes is the new Grants, Research and Information Technology Manager. Each of the new staff members briefly introduced themselves.

B. Visit by NEA Chairman, Jane Chu. Mr. Ricci reported on the March 6 visit to Indianapolis by the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Chu. She attended a luncheon sponsored by the Arts Commission and hosted by former Commission chair Jeanne Mirro and her husband Michael, and then toured several direct-grantees in the Indianapolis area, including the Indianapolis Art Center, Big Car, the City of Indianapolis, and the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. The following day she participated in a colloquium on Arts and Community on the campus of Indiana University, Bloomington.

C. National Advocacy Day. Mr. Ricci reported that he will be leading a contingent of advocates to Washington DC on March 23 – 24 for National Arts Advocacy Day. The contingent has scheduled appointments with the offices of all congressional members from Indiana. Commissioner Karen Ellerbrook, a former attendee, encouraged all current Commissioners to attend one of these annual events, calling it a “very meaningful experience”

D. Technical Assistance/ Capacity Building Update. Mr. Ricci reported that all future Technical Assistance funding will be given in response to Requests for Proposal (RFPs) rather than direct grants. There will be no more capacity building colloquios presented in FY 2015, although plans are being made for programs in FY 2016.

E. National Partnership Updates. Mr. Ricci reported that the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is currently without a president. Several Arts Commission staff attended the latest NASAA conference held in New Orleans. Arts Midwest presented an edition of its WorldFest at Hanover College in southern Indiana. Current Commissioner Gil Cárdenas and former Commissioner Sandra Clark are both members of the Arts Midwest board of directors.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Programs, Grant and Services Committee.**

1. Commissioner Stewart presented the recommended slate of Regional Arts Partners for FY 2016 – 2019 (attached). Arts Commission Director of Programs Paige Sharp remarked on the selection process and thanked the Commissioners who comprised the review committee: Micah Smith, Al Rent and Nancy Stewart. Commissioner Stewart remarked that the Programs, Grants and Services Committee was unanimous in its recommendation to the full Commission. The recommended Regional Arts Partners are:

Region 1	South Shore Arts
Region 2	Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
Region 3	Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne
Region 4	Tippecanoe Arts Federation
Region 5	Community Foundation of Randolph County
Region 6	Arts Illiana
Region 7	Butler University
Region 8	Brown County Community Foundation
Region 9	Columbus Area Arts Council
Region 10	Vanderburgh Community Foundation
Region 12	Community Arts Program at Hanover College

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the recommended slate as Regional Arts Partners for FY 2016 – 2019. Commissioner Kathy Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Mr. Ricci reported that he and Ms. Sharp conducted a site visit to Madison, Indiana on the recommendation of the Programs, Grants and Services committee, relative to the City of Madison's application to become a Statewide Cultural District. Their visit was to address certain concerns raised by the application review committee. Mr. Ricci reported that, as a result of the site visit, he is fully satisfied that the City of Madison is a viable candidate for the Cultural District designation. Commissioner Stark moved to approve the City of Madison as a Statewide Cultural District. Commissioner Cárdenas seconded the motion. The motion passed. Commission Chair Trevor Yager offered the congratulations of the Commission to the representatives of the City of Madison who attended the meeting.

3. Arts Commission Community Development Manager Sarah Fronczek presented a handout (attached) summarizing the review of applicants for the Partnering Arts, Communities and Education (PACE) grants. The Program, Grants and Services committee has recommended that the following programs be approved for participation:

a. "The Big Picture – Literacy Through Art" which partners the Community School of the Arts at Indiana State University with the Meadows Elementary School in Terre Haute.

b. "Literacy Live at Madison" which partners the South Bend Civic Theatre with the Madison Primary Center in South Bend.

c. "Robinson Shakespeare Company Drama Integration Project" which partners the Robinson Community Learning Center at the University of Notre Dame with the McKinley Primary Center in South Bend.

d. "Dance, Writing and the Indiana Dunes" which partners Young Audiences Indiana with the Pine Elementary School in Michigan City.

Commissioner Allen Platt moved to approve the recommended programs for inclusion in the PACE program. Commissioner Linda Levell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**B. Committee on the Future.**

1. Cultural Trust. COF acting chair Kathy Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the current balance of the Cultural Trust fund. She remarked that the Commission is concerned about the continuing low yield on investments in the fund. Mr. Ricci remarked that the funds are constrained by state investment policies, but that he has been looking into possible alternate investment strategies. Arts Commission Marketing and Communications Director Rex Van Zant reported on the pending redesign of the Arts Trust license plate, sales of which generate funds for the Cultural Trust. He and Ms. Fields are working on the new design which will feature the new Arts Commission logo.

2. Strategic Plan Preliminaries. Mr. Ricci reported that preliminary planning is under way for the next Strategic Plan (2017 – 2022). The current year will be devoted to research and to forming a steering committee. He announced that Commissioner Stark has agreed to chair the steering committee, and so to become chair of the Committee on the Future for FY 2016. Mr. Ricci presented handouts (attached) suggesting possible members of the steering committee, and asking for other nominations. Commissioner Stark remarked that she encourages fresh thinking during the strategic planning process.

**6. Regional Arts Partners Update.** RAP consortium president Susan Mendenhall from Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne thanked the Commission for coming to Fort Wayne for this meeting. She reported that the grant panel orientation process is going well in all regions. The "intent-to-apply" process went very well. A major concern among the partners is the requirement for a yearly audit, which can be quite costly. She asked the Commission to take this into consideration. Commissioner Platt suggested certain alternatives to a full audit. Commissioner Susan Hardwick offered specific suggestions and offered her assistance to develop guidelines. Commission chair Yager assigned the task of research and recommendations to the Programs, Grants and Services Committee. Commissioner Yager offered congratulations to Ms. Mendenhall for being named to the Fort Wayne "40 Under 40" by the Fort Wayne Business Weekly.

**7. Old Business.** There was no old business.

**8. New Business.** There was no new business.

9. **Closing Comments.** Commissioner Yager thanked Commissioner Stewart and Ms. Mendenhall again for hosting the Commission meeting in Fort Wayne. He thanked everyone for their participation.

10. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Cárdenas moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Platt seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.